

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 01711 011242Z

51 S

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 118663

R 011034Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

RUDTCWXAMEMBASSY LONDON 211

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 1711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: IRYANI RESIGNATION

REF: SANAA 1688; BEIRUT 10212 (BOTH NOTAL)

AMMAN PASS AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

1. OFFICIAL/POPULAR DELEGATION RETURNED TO SANAA AUGUST 31 AFTER PRESENTING TO IRYANI REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS (I.E. RESPONSE TO IRYANI'S CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWING RECOMMENDATIONS). ACCORDING TO SANAA RADIO SAME EVENING, IRYANI ACCEPTED REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS AND ORDERED THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

2. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PIN DOWN YET WHETHER IRYANI HAS FORMALLY WITHDRAWN RESIGNATION, BUT IT APPEARS THAT HE HAS AT LEAST AGREED TO DO SO. IN PRESS INTERVIEW BROADCAST AUGUST 31 SUBSEQUENT TO ABOVE, DELEGATION LEADER DEPUTY CIC COL. IBRAHIM HAMDY STATED THAT IRYANI WOULD RETURN TO
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YEMEN "SOON" AFTER ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HAMDY

AVOIDED RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT RESIGNATION,
STRESSING IRYANI'S DEVOTION TO COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT. IRYANI APPARENTLY OBTAINED WHAT HE WANTED.
ALTHOUGH RESIGNATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY DESIGNED TO
FORCE CHANGES HE FELT NECESSARY, NO ONE HERE DOUBTS THAT HIS
GRIEVANCES WERE REAL OR THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE CARRIED THROUGH
HIS THREAT. IN THIS CASE BRINKSMANSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE
WORKED.

4. ANOTHER FACTOR WORTH NOTING IS PROMINENT ROLE OF MILITARY
IN SOLVING CRISIS. COLS. IRYANI AND HAMDI PRESIDED OVER REFORM
COMMITTEE, HAMDI LED DELEGATION TO SYRIA, AND COS COL.
MASWARI SHUTTLED BETWEEN LATAQIYA, SAUDI ARABIA, AND SANAA.
THIS MAY PRESAGE MORE IMPORTANT ROLE FOR MILITARY IN FUTURE
INTERNAL POLITICAL DEALINGS, PARTICULARLY IF REFORMS RESULT
IN REDUCING ROLE OF TRIBAL FORCES.
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